

common-sense, good government legislation. Constituents will appreciate the fact that Republicans are listening to their concerns and taking positive, productive steps to reach solutions.

There is much work to do, and we are methodically getting that work done. It may not be flashy, but it is responsibility in action, and Americans appreciate this. Republicans will continue to tackle the tough issues of the day rather than pass the buck on to future generations. Americans may not read about it in their newspapers or hear about it on the nightly news; however, solutions are happening here and now.

Mr. Speaker, success is defined in terms of solutions, not in terms of rhetoric, and solutions are what Republicans are bringing to the American people.

□ 1015

IN HONOR OF TODD VENETTE

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of a great American, Todd Venette, whose life was cut short by a terrorist attack in Iraq.

Todd, a former Marine, was helping Iraq's young democracy as a government contractor when he was killed by a terrorist car bomb in Baghdad. As his friends and family would tell you, Todd was a selfless person who volunteered to reenlist shortly after the war in Iraq started. When he completed his tour, his dedication to the mission led him to return to Iraq as a government contractor.

A giving person, a mentor, and a servant are among the words that have been used to describe Todd. As a firefighter in Russellville, Arkansas, Todd helped protect the community. His service to the people of Russellville did not end there. Todd was instrumental in establishing a wrestling program for kids at the local Boys and Girls Club, putting his talents to work as a mentor to shape the lives of young people of Russellville in a positive way.

Mr. Speaker, Todd touched many people in his short life. I ask my colleagues to keep Todd's family and friends in their thoughts and prayers during these very difficult times.

RECOGNIZING JIM LONGWORTH

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Triad Today for being awarded the Spectrum of Democracy Award for Responsible Election Coverage by the North Carolina Center For Voter Education. The program is aired in the Fifth Congressional District on Sinclair Broadcast-

ing's WXLV/WUPN station covering the Winston-Salem/Greensboro/High Point metropolitan area.

Triad Today was created October 2003 by veteran television broadcaster, author, and columnist Jim Longworth. It is the Piedmont Triad's only local television talk show. Its guests have included Senators and Congressmen, mayors and sports celebrities like Richard Petty. But most of the time it serves the community by disseminating information about the issues that matter the most to the community, like health care, public safety, and government.

But it was another kind of public service for which Triad Today was recently recognized. During the 2004 election cycle, Jim Longworth distributed free blocks of air time on his show to scores of congressional and gubernatorial candidates. His action helped raise citizen awareness of candidates and issues and encouraged more people to participate in the political process. For this, Mr. Longworth and Triad Today were awarded the Spectrum of Democracy Award.

Mr. Speaker, the press has a responsibility to fulfill its role as the fourth estate, that is, to serve as a guardian of democracy and defender of the public interest. I am pleased to congratulate Triad Today for its outstanding commitment to keeping the community informed.

REPUBLICANS RETURN CONTROL TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan once said that the government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: if it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it; and if it stops moving, subsidize it.

I believe the American people, not the government, have a better view of our economy. By working to remove the economic barriers of taxation, litigation and regulation, House Republicans are returning control of the economy to the American people. The 109th Congress has passed legislation this year which will permanently repeal the death tax, decrease the deficit, strengthen American borders, prevent frivolous lawsuits, improve our highways, and provide our country with a comprehensive energy policy.

In my home State of South Carolina, the unemployment rate continues to decrease and over 1,300 new jobs have been created since March. This great news is positive proof that the Republican leaders are creating more jobs, growing the economy, and returning control to the American people.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

THE HISTORY OF MEMORIAL DAY

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to celebrate Memorial Day, let me give a brief history lesson. We know that Southern families decorated the graves of their fallen friends after the Civil War on what was known as Decoration Day.

However, it was a former Member of Congress, a Democrat-turned-Republican, an individual who got elected to the Senate, General John A. Logan, who gets credit for memorializing Memorial Day as he established the Grand Army of the Republic and issued General Order 31 which formerly established Memorial Day.

General Logan was from Illinois in the deep southern part of the State. He was a congressman, a U.S. Senator and a vice presidential candidate. He is memorialized with a statue here in Washington, DC and a statue in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he kept Union soldiers from burning down the city. He also has a community college named after him in the southern part of the State of Illinois.

As we remember the men and women who have fallen in combat, let us also remember our soldiers from all wars and the folks that made it possible for us to have and celebrate Memorial Day, and one of those individuals is General John A. Logan.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, shortly after the conclusion of the Civil War, a group of veterans began a tradition known as Decoration Day. The day was set aside to decorate the graves of the men who had perished during battle, and it was believed Decoration Day was always during the month of May because flowers needed for the occasion were finally blooming. Two centuries later, Decoration Day is now Memorial Day, but two core traditions remain: we honor those who died protecting our Nation, and we still do so in May when the flowers are blooming.

Today, as our Nation spends its third consecutive Memorial Day at war, we remember the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice defending the precious gift of liberty. We honor the people who have left behind husband, wives, children and parents, as well as the riches and celebrations of life, to fight for the freedoms of all Americans; and we should remain always mindful of that symbolic tradition of Decoration Day, that flowers will bloom, a beautiful America will bloom from the sacrifices made by our fallen veterans.